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A SPECK OF INDIAN WARFARE ON THE FRONTIER OF ILLINOIS IN 1811.

(From the Belleville Advocate, June 25, 1851.)

The frontier of the north-west of Illinois Territory, in the year 1811, was the settlements of Wood River, Rattan's prairie, and the localities, which Alton now occupies, in Madison County. The settlement on the Mississippi where Alton is at present, was considered the most dangerous, as the Indians generally descended the river in their canoes—committed depredations—and escaped by land to their towns.

About this time of the year, 18th June, 1811, A. M. Price and another man were cultivating their corn in a small field situated near the spring in Hunter's Alton, when a small band of Indians way-laid Price and companion, and shot Price, the other man made his escape by mounting his plough horse and leaving the Indians behind.—Price was a fine young man and was killed and buried near the spring in Hunter's Alton.

What gives this case of Price more celebrity is: that he was the first man killed in Illinois in the late war with Great Britain. The Indians in this year 1811, were excited to hostility by the English and this was the first case of blood shed in all the west. It was rumored at the time; that the Indians committed this murder of Price at this place, because some years before, some white men had insulted a squaw at this same place, the Indians are guided in their revenge much by localities. This was idle rumor and may not be true; but at all events it was true, as to the murder of Price. This Indian outrage produced a great excitement throughout the country. A great many back-woods men assembled on the frontiers, and a small

party, headed by Gen. Samuel Whiteside, gave chase to the Indian murderers, and by the greatest exertions overhauled them at the head of Indian Creek in the present County of Morgan, one Indian was killed and the others made their escape. This small band of pursuers were composed of the most daring and energetic Indian fighters of that day, and by following the Indian Trail at night, they reached the Indians at the uppermost timber of Indian Creek. In the skirmish, most of the Indians escaped. The killing of this Indian at the head waters of this stream has given the name of Indian Creek to it, which it may retain forever. The murder of Price gave motion to the ball of war, and the frontiers from the Mississippi around by the Wabash to the mouth of the Ohio were greatly alarmed at their defenceless condition. It was manifest that the Indians were making preparations for hostilities; and it was also as manifest that the frontiers were much exposed to the assaults of an enemy. But that native energy and talent, which is pre-eminently possessed by an American back-woods man, gave to the frontiers of Illinois, a defence, that saved the country.

If the papers of Madison County would copy this notice of the death of Price; it would make many a pioneer of old Madison glad to contrast the difference in the country between June, 1811, and June, 1851.

AN EYE-WITNESS.